

**Remarks**

The indication that claims 19-26 have been allowed and that claims 12-13 and 16-18 include patentable subject matter is acknowledged with thanks. In reliance thereon, the subject matter of claim 12 has been added to claim 1, and claims 16 and 18 have been amended into independent form by adding the subject matter of claim 1 thereto. The dependencies of claims 13 and 17 have been amended to place the application in condition for allowance. Note also that claims 7 and 9 have been amended so they are dependent from claim 21 rather than dependent on claim 5 and that claims 2-6, 8, 10, 11 and 14-15 have been amended to depend from claim 18.

Please note the following remarks from the applicant concerning the comment about plastics capable of bonding (sentences bridging pages 2 and 3 of the Official Action): HARDER does not mention the type of plastic material of the plastic bodies. Most usual material for dampening projections in underlay materials is a cork granulate (e.g., page 1, lines 28-32 of FI-86996 mentioned in the description) and a pre-expanded polystyrene granulate (e.g., page 2, lines 26-28 of FI-86996; and page 2, lines 11-12 of DE-G 91 15 773, both mentioned in the description). Neither cork nor pre-expanded polystyrene can be attached to any base material by the effect of their material properties at the time of their manufacture. They must always be

fixed using a layer of glue. No reference suggests using any dampening material such that its material properties at the time of their manufacture are utilized for attaching the dampening material to the base material.

The present amendment is believed to overcome the rejection of claims 1-11 and 14-15 because these claims now include subject matter indicated to be allowable.

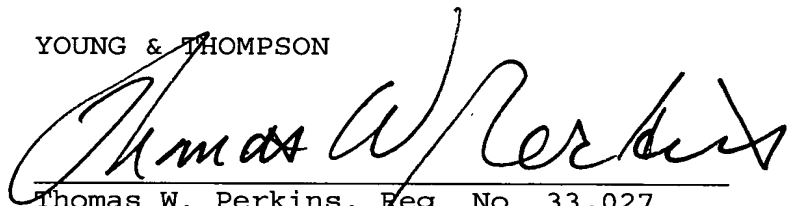
In view of the present amendment, it is believed the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Please charge the fee of \$43 for the one extra independent claim added herewith to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Thomas W. Perkins, Reg. No. 33,027  
745 South 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Telephone (703) 521-2297  
Telefax (703) 685-0573  
(703) 979-4709

TWP/lrs